WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JUNE 2002

Olympia City Council Pursues a No Car-Camping Ordinance in a Vacuum of Support

Pat Tassoni

The mean-spirited council

The Olympia City Council recently instructed their staff to write a "No Car Camping" ordinance, while essentially choosing to not pursue the other proposed anti-poor laws, including the No Panhandling Zone and the Alcohol Impact Zone. The City Council strangely feels they know something the rest of us don't. All along they have been trying to spin these ordinances by emphasizing they are not anti-homeless. This law is clearly the most obviously anti-homeless in no uncertain terms -- a ban on car camping is targeted at people who have no home other than their cars. Those people are called homeless.

The City Council already admits there is not enough shelter to meet the needs of the homeless, and still they want to take away some of the homeless' last resort for shelter when they sleep in their cars. This law doesn't make sense in light of reality and is nothing more than a mean-spirited attack meant to hurt others (in your name).

In the months of February, March, and April, Bread & Roses alone turned away: 82 moms, 175 children, and 106 single women due to lack of space. These numbers do not reflect the others including men and youth that were turned away from shelter elsewhere.

So who is the council representing on this issue? No one. Whose council is this anyway? Not the public's and not even the businesses.

Where did they go? No one knows for sure, but what is for sure is that the council isn't asking that question. Why? Simple, because it is a safe assumption that many of them stayed in their cars.

The council is trying to put a nice spin on this proposed No Car Camping ordinance by requiring some possible one or two night hotel vouchers when the police identify women and children car camping. We don't need an ordinance to recognize the need for solutions. Vouchers could and should be made available without the threat of citing and arresting a homeless person and permanently impounding their last safe refuge. The city should go further with solutions that address homelessness in our community by funding shelter, transitional and affordable housing instead so people don't have to sleep in their cars.

Who is pushing this

In the spirit of true community, service providers, homeless advocates and the downtown business association came to a mutual agreement about social issues downtown in a series of meetings. The Olympia Downtown Association in participating in this "Common Ground Coalition" effort is no longer endorsing any of the ordinances and specifically mentions that banning car camping may even make things worse downtown. So who is the council representing on this issue? No one. Whose council is this anyway? Not the public's and not even the businesses. The council is on another planet with this issue -- they couldn't be more out-of-touch with their constituency than if they were imported from another time, place and culture.

Pick your team

Our score (based on public involvement):

1. 2000 signatures from the public on a petition against these ordinances (including no car camping) that asks the council to take proactive solutions to the problems of poverty.
2. Hundreds of voices at the City sponsored event, "The Community Conversation" that overwhelmingly rejected the ordinances and proposed constructive solutions (which the council has not taken up).
3. The joint proposal from the Common Ground Coalition the Olympia Downtown Business Association that rejected the ordinances.

Their score (encouraged by the council's hate-speech):

1. Letters to the editor and the council that suggest euthanizing the homeless or putting them on a bus to nowhere. A plea from a citizen encouraging the council to do something since "I am having a guilt trip every time I go downtown". (This is the slogan of the council's action to enact and enforce this law as a "quick-fix" solution to remove poor people from sight, rather than addressing the underlying causes of poverty and homelessness.)
2. Hate crimes are up against the homeless downtown, including an

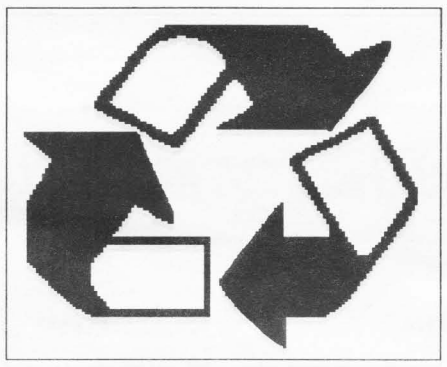
(continued page 10)

Sound Builders' ReSource Opens to ReFill Demand

WIP News Service

This past March Second Use, Olympia's outlet for recycled building materials, shut its doors. Do-it-yourselfers, ecologically-minded builders, and artists all over town were dismayed at the loss of what had become an important resource. But now, with the work of a small group of people who didn't want to see the community lose access to low-cost, reused building supplies, Sound Builders' ReSource has opened in the old Second Use space.

Run by a staff of three and a handful of volunteers, Sound Builders' ReSource (SBR) offers a diverse inventory. You will find lumber, cabinetry, windows, flooring, doors and door hardware, plumbing and light fixtures, brick and stone, etc. There is everything from brand new materials bought as surplus to vintage and one-of-a-kind items that you won't find at Home Depot. Not to mention the prices are a lot lower! You can sometimes even find handcrafted furniture by local artisans. SBR is also working on a partnership with Windfall Lumber, and expects to soon be carrying their certified sustainably-harvested hardwoods and flooring.



Much of SBR's inventory is salvaged from local remodel or demolition projects. SBR will in some cases provide teardown labor for free or low cost, in exchange for the materials salvaged. Other materials come from Thurston County Reusable Building Materials Reclaim Center, a project which diverts reusable items from the Hawks Prairie Landfill. Since August, this project has diverted over 20 tons of reusable materials. Which means that by purchasing reused or reclaimed building materials you're not only saving money, but also putting a big dent in the huge amount of

(continued page 10)

Capital City Pride festival and parade

The Annual Capital City Pride festival and parade winds it way through Washington State's capital, Olympia, on Saturday, June 22, 2002. The event begins with a parade from the Capitol grounds at noon. The festival begins at 1pm at Sylvester park in downtown Olympia.

Approximately half a million visitors come to Olympia each year to take part in some of the bigger events in the state such as Super Saturday, ArtsWalk, the Procession of the Species, Harbor Days, and yes, Capital City Pride.

Located at the mouth of Puget Sound, at [illegible] of Mount Rainier and [illegible]y located to Washington's coastlines and the Cascades, Olympia offers up more than just a taste of state government; it is a place to call home.

More than a drive-by attraction between Portland and Seattle, Olympia is continually ranked one of the most beautiful cities in the country, and is steeped in historical tradition and significance.

One piece of that history lies in a boulder in downtown Olympia's Sylvester Park; commemorating the end of the Oregon Trail. Unbeknownst to hundreds of people from the GLBT communities whose footsteps match that of those who came before, pioneers laid the trail and gays and lesbian march the journey for the basic rights to live and have a place to call home.

With the theme of "Pride Around the World: Equal Rights Now!" the Olympia event, now in its 11th year, has grown to festival standards, complete with music, speakers from our local gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied organizations, local elected officials announcing recent civil rights gains, kid activities for families, booths, concessions and, of course, our annual parade.

Please join us again this year for Capital City Pride Day 2002!

If you are interested in more information, please contact:
Capital City Pride
PO Box 7221 Olympia, WA 98507
http://www.rainbowcenteroly.org
CapCityPride@rainbowcenteroly.org

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! /Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!/

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah
Jerome Johnson	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, June 21st

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, June 24th
6:30pm at Olympia
Downtown Library

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Evergrowing State Crisis?

Well, those valiant upholders of progressive ideals in the Evergreen Administration are at it again!

Firstly, they did announce the interviews of finalists for Station Manager at KAOS. Unfortunately, they only did so after KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now "heard it through the grapevine", and began inquiries. The Hiring Committee Chair, Diane Conrad, plead ignorance to any plans and referred all calls to S&A Director Tom Mercado, whose office was also silent initially. Five days before the first interview, it was confirmed that these "public forums" would be taking place. Community members who wanted to meet them all would have to sacrifice five evenings in a row to do so, which is difficult for parents, working and poor people etc.

The finalists as a group did not seem so strong on a commitment to a volunteer-driven, "non-commercial" community radio. This raises questions about the PROCESS by which finalists are chosen, a process which previously excluded a local, diverse and grassroots-oriented pool of progressive media workers, just as it did this time.

Tom Mercado, who will make the final pick for the "leader" that the community gets, may have already decided who he wants, as I write this letter BEFORE the interviews. If not, he is sure to be deciding as you read this letter AFTER the interviews.

Community input?: If you had been able to go the interviews (M-F 5/20-24 6-8 PM), you could have told Tom what you think. Measurable accountability to community sentiment? None whatsoever that I can see...

Well, whatever we may think of the direction that the administrators want to lead KAOS in, we can all rest comfortable in the fact that S&A is "fulfilling their mission" through gutting the budgets of a few student groups: The Evergreen Political Action Committee (EPIC), The Union of Student Workers, and the Latin American Solidarity Organization (LASO). "Coincidentally", at least two of these groups have gotten on the wrong side of TESC bosses through asserting themselves politically on campus. So I'm sure we can trust S&A to support all our progressive ideals!

Added to this troubling picture is the dearth of real investigative journalism at the *Cooper Point Journal* (which is "advised" by the Administration's Diane Conrad, also mentioned above). The *CPJ* will hardly give the time of day to the student groups now under attack, nor to others who question the direction that President Purce, VP Costantino and their underlings are leading the college in. It is thus very hard to ascertain the commitment to Free Speech so publicly declared by the Evergreen Administration in the period just before Mayday.

For those of us who care to really look, the S&A/KAOS Administration is part and parcel of a rapidly metastisizing state bureaucracy with an agenda for Evergreen that does not seem very progressive at all. It is the gradual nature of the changes they are enforcing which obscures the truth.

Only "people's power" -- community and student organization at the grassroots -- can preserve and strengthen the radical side of Evergreen, which many of us value highly. Please do your part.

Sincerely, Austin Kelley
(See: www.morelater.com/kaos)

Weekly peace vigils

PEACE VIGIL, noon to 1 p.m. in NW corner of Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way) EVERY WEDNESDAY. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Please come for all or part of the hour to witness for peace and nonviolence. Sponsor: Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation Info: 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

PEACE VIGIL, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on 4th Ave near the fountain EVERY FRIDAY. Our demeanor and signs are friendly and positive, urging lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq and promoting peace and human rights in light of the current international crisis. Olympia FOR provides signs or you may bring your own. Info: call 867-1731 or 491-9093. E-Mail: glen@olywa.net

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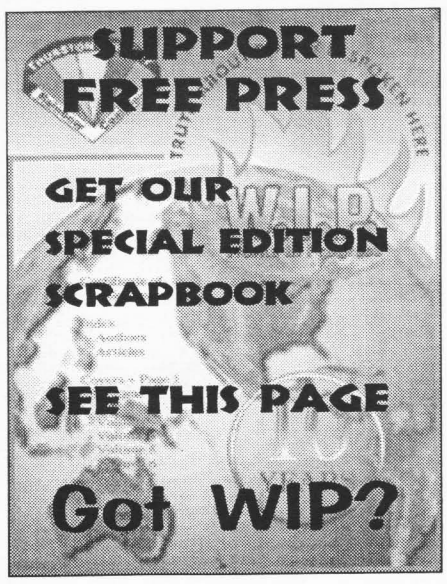

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JUNE 2002

It's the oil...again

On April 12th Western press reports the overthrow of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Then, just two days later, Chavez is back in power. As the facts came out, Duncan Campbell of *The Guardian* would come to label the event as 'Bush's Bay of Piglets'.

Chavez, populist and former paratrooper, had passed laws to require plantations to turnover "untilled" land to the landless and, of more interest, to double royalties paid by foreign companies to extract Venezuelan oil (the major company is Exxon-Mobil).

A few days before the coup, Chavez received a warning from his old leftwing guerrilla friend, Ali Rodriquez who happens to be the secretary general of OPEC. Iraq and Iran were pushing for another oil embargo against the US due to Bush's position on the Israeli incursions into Palestinian territories and Bush wanted to have a controllable Venezuelan government to break the embargo. It was, after all, Venezuelan oil that broke the oil embargo in 1973. Chavez was told that the US would "prod a long-simmering coup into action".

In an failed attempt to soothe Bush, Chavez sent assurances to Washington that he wouldn't support an oil embargo, and...he also placed 100s of loyal troops in secret passageways in the presidential palace. They would return Chavez to power by capturing coup leader, businessman and self-proclaimed president, Pedro Carmona who, by the way, dissolved both the national assembly and the supreme court in his short reign.

Even though coup-plotting Venezuela's visited both the White House and Pentagon for month prior to April 12, a Pentagon spokesperson claims "the US' intent was to support democracy and human rights, and that we would in no way support any coups or unconstitutional activity."

Sources: Greg Palast, Duncan Campbell, Ed Vulliamy, Jullian Borger, Alex Bellos, and Gary Younge of *The Guardian*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Q: Why has there never been an military coup in Washington DC? A: Because Washington DC doesn't have a US embassy. (Venezuelan joke)						**1** **2001**: Earth Liberation Front takes responsibility for fires at the U of W and a tree farm in Oregon
2 **2001**: Sen. Jim Jeffords (D-VT) leaves GOP to became independent; Republicans lose US Senate majority	**3** **2001**: Supreme Court overturns execution of mentally retarded man **2001**: Vandals attack Buddhist temple	**4** **1919**: Woman's suffrage amendment passes US Senate 56-25; sent to states for ratification	**5** **2001**: WA DNR announces it will allow logging on state land set aside for northern spotted owl	**6** **2001**: LA jury fines Philip Morris will pay ill smoker $3 billion **2001**: Protest shooting of black by Seattle cop	**7** **2001**: Speed limit along East Bay Drive drops to 30 mph **1712**: Pennsylvania bans import of slaves	**8** **2001**: 338 acres are added to Willapa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge with moneys from pollution penalties
9 **1998**: Centralia power plant is for sale **2000**: Judge rules Thurston County owns Rainbow Valley	**10** **1998**: Olympia is rated as the West's 3rd most livable small city according to Money magazine	**11** **2001**: 100s show support for Buddhist temple in Olympia **2001**: Timothy McVeigh is executed	**12** **2001**: Skokomish lose lawsuit against Tacoma Power for loss of salmon, shellfish, elk and other resources	**13** **2000**: South Korean President Kim Dae-jung arrives in North Korea to begin historic summit	**14** **2001**: Financial disclosure filed by Maria Cantwell shows she is still worth between $5-26 million	**15** **2001**: 25,000 protest at the EU Summit in Sweden; 43 protesters and one cop hospitalized
16 **2000**: BP Amoco takes over operation of Olympic Pipe Line **2001**: 4th Ave Bridge to pedestrians/cyclists	**17** **1963**: Supreme Court rules no state or locality may require recitation of Lord's Prayer in public schools	**18** **2001**: Gwich'in tell Gale Norton drilling in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge will destroy their culture	**19** **1953**: Rosenbergs are executed **2001**: Work begins on the Sleater-Kinney pedestrian tunnel	**20** **1967**: Muhammad Ali convicted of violating Selective Service Act **2001**: Greenspan says tax cut won't do harm	**21** **1998**: Arson destroy two USDA facilities in Thurston County **2000**: WHO ranks US 37th in health care	**22** **2000**: Texas puts Gary Graham to death while **2001**: IT survey shows rural county residents want their bus service
23 **1995**: US gov pays Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama and, Warm Springs $57 million for lands for dams in 30s	**24** **2001**: Justice Dept survey shows 1/3 victims of assault attacked by intimate partner, 1/3 attacked by family	**25** **2001**: Locke orders revamping of st School for the Deaf after reports of rape, molestation, harassment	**26** **2000**: Little Elian Gonzalez's Miami relatives ask the Supreme Court to block his return to Cuba	**27** **2001**: NW power Planning council recommends BPA make electricity and not spill more water to save fish	**28** **2000**: Economic Dev Council conducting $4,500 economic impact analysis of Miller Brewery expansion	**29** 2001: US Senate passes patient rights bill allowing people to sue managed care plans
30 **2001**: Today is deadline for FEMA applications for earthquake damage **2001**: Dick Cheney gets a pacemaker	In the past year, the US has channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to US and Venezuelan groups opposed to Mr. Chavez, including the labour group whose protests sparked off the coup. The funds were provided by the National Endowment for Democracy, a nonprofit agency created and financed by the US Congress. Duncan Campbell, *The Guardian*				[US foreign policy] is to encourage the spread of democracy and market economies. Colin Powell	

Up Front

What a Month It Has Been

Jerome Johnson

I hadn't seen Sundown for a few months, but he showed up the other day when I was working in the yard. He waited until I finished mowing and handed me a brew from the depths of his cooler.

"I'm happy," he said with a contented sigh. "Dubya's had one hell of a month, you know."

O?

"Hell yes," he grinned. "It started off 'bad'—he kept telling Ariel Sharon to mellow out, and ol' Arik just kept on hitting the Palestinians. The more Dubya begged, the less Sharon listened."

One might think that billions of dollars in aid every year would be an attention-getter.

"You'd think!" Sundown agreed. "But this is Israel, and Sharon knows that the conservative right wing here—Dubya's voter base—won't let Dubya really do anything except whine. So Sharon finished his 'operation' right on his schedule. And poor Colin Powell—I bet being a token hasn't been this rough on him since he was a junior Army officer."

The more Dubya begged, the less Sharon listened. One might think that billions of dollars in aid every year would be an attention-getter.

And that was just the beginning of the month.

"Indeed, my man. Next headline was this kid from Wisconsin, Luke Helder. Dig this—the kid goes through 5 states planting pipe bombs in mailboxes, and hardly a peep out of D.C. Any way you look at it this kid's a terrorist—thank God no one died—but where was Ashcroft? Why didn't we see him at a news conference, thundering hell and brimstone and use of his new powers and anti-terror laws to lock this kid up and throw away the key? Why wasn't the media howling for his blood? Why didn't we see the victims on Fox 'News', demanding vengeance?"

It did seem a bit odd.

"Odd ain't the word for it. Let me ask you this—instead of a being a 'nice' white college kid, what if he'd been black? Or a Muslim? Or an Arab Muslim?"

Hmmmm.

"And then a few weeks later, Dubya and his handlers started selling that picture of him in Air Force 1 on Sept. 11th. Trying to make campaign money off the misery of those poor families."

Well, the Republicans said it's just a picture like any other, and it's supposed to show a president in control.

"I think it's obscene, man. Despicable. Exploiting those people and their misery. Especially since we all know he WASN'T in control—he was flying all over the southeastern United States like a scared jackrabbit. He was probably on the phone to Cheney to ask if it was safe to come down and hide, which he eventually did when he landed in Louisiana.

"And then—as if that ain't enough—he and Cheney have the damned nerve to tell us that their vaunted intelligence community couldn't connect the dots of info they had. And worse—they thought it might be just a hijacking, so they didn't warn anyone except a few airlines, and then only vaguely. As if a 'normal hijacking' is OK—even though hostages would be taken and people hurt."

They weren't sure of their facts.

"That stop them in Florida two years ago," Sundown growled. "And speaking of Cuba, didja hear Dubya speaking down there the other day? Besides going there to help his brother get re-elected, he had to go pander to those Cubans and let 'em know he's still their boy."

Well, there was a question of a change in policy after Carter's visit.

"Hell, there was no question at all," Sundown said. "He just wanted to bash Carter and Castro and massage his voter base. Can you dig the irony? He stole the election—his own Justice Dept. is suing Florida counties over 'irregularities' in the 2000 election—and Dubya has the hypocritical nerve to go down there and tell someone else that their elections are a 'fraud', and 'the voices of the people have been suppressed.'" Sundown broke off, laughing so hard he nearly fell off the porch.

"And now, Cheney's trying to tell us that it's unpatriotic to question anything they do." More laughter. "It's so dumb, it's funny. Has Cheney read his history? Heard of the Founding Fathers? Those dudes did a hell of a lot more than ask questions, and they're 'heroes'!"

Cheney did sound a bit shrill when I saw him on TV.

"Hell, wouldn't you? I don't think he—or anyone else in his administration—want to explain why Ashcroft's focus was on drugs and porno and gun rights, instead of terrorism. They might not want to explain why Rumsfeld diverted $800 million in Defense money from intelligence-gathering and counter-terror to pay for Star Wars—missile defense—instead. Now, this may sound shocking—but I heard it all on the news, read about it in the New York 'Times' and 'Newsweek' and 'The Nation.'" He chuckled richly. "Yes, that would be uncomfortable—especially if it was televised LIVE on CNN. Imagine that—congressional commitee in front of you, news cameras all around, and the victims' families sitting in the front audience row behind you, waiting for you to explain what you knew, when you knew it and why you didn't do anything about it."

* In Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi is released from house arrest.
* In the Pacific, East Timor becomes the world's newest nation.
* In New York, Cornel West returns to Princeton.
* And in Olympia, once again, a community fights to keep greedy developers from robbing the people of our scenic views and open spaces, downtown and along the waterfront. ◆

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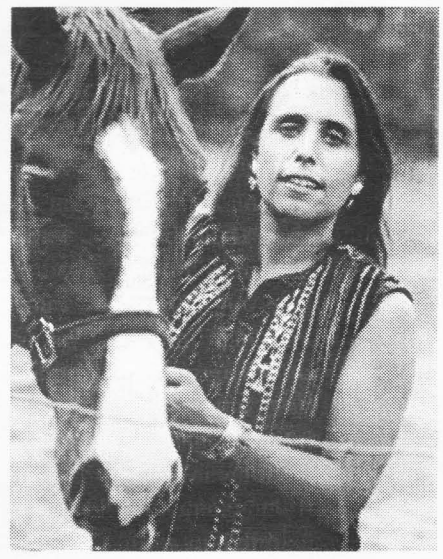
Winona LaDuke at University of Puget Sound



David Zink

Winona LaDuke says two things motivate her.

She's a mother of three children. Those are her #1 motivator.

The second thing that moves Winona is the disconnect between the values she's trying to teach her kids and the messages her kids, our kids, and all of us, are getting from the System. We try to teach our kids values, but the System comes along and negates them.

Winona spoke about Environmental Justice from a Native Perspective at Kilworth Chapel at the University of Puget Sound on Friday night, April 19th.

There are 80 thousand synthetic chemicals out there in the environment. They don't belong there. There are about 250 thousand Ojibway (also known as "Chippewa") people, mainly scattered across Minnesota, Ontario, and Wisconsin. They belong there, in their ancestral homeland. They are a fishing people. But local health departments in Ojibway country now recommend that people eat no more than one fish per week in many lakes in that region because of pollution. In the headwaters of the Mississippi river, they are advised to eat no more than one fish per month.

The average TV watcher gets a dose of 11 thousand commercials per year. These focus our attention on trivial things, while pushing important things off our radar screens. "Isn't it silly to worry about how much vitamins are in this or that brand of cereal," she asked, "and not be concerned about how much mercury, PCBs, and other hazardous chemicals are in our kid's bodies?" Through the mass media, the System sets the terms and limits of discussion for most, people.

We teach our kids that they should not steal. Yet the dominant culture says to look out for yourself, and to heck with others. Take a look at what has happened to Native American land.

We teach our kids not to be greedy, but the system encourages greed. The 225 richest individuals have more wealth than the poorest 225 million people. A 4% levy on those 225 people would provide basic food, health care, and family planning assistance to the 225 million poorest people.

The Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") of the internal economy of Wal Mart exceeds the GDP of many nations, including Ireland and Israel. Yet, Wal Mart chooses not to pay their workers a decent wage or allow them to organize a union.

The current minimum wage is ½ of a living wage. To make a living wage, many workers work 2 or 3 jobs.

25 years ago, CEOs made 25 times what an average U.S. worker in their company made. Today, it is 419 times. In Japan, CEOs make an average of 16 times what there average worker earns, and in Germany it's 20 times.

We teach our kids to "Clean up your own mess before you go and make a new mess." But the nuclear energy industry bailed out of their responsibility to deal with their wastes, turning it into a public responsibility. The policy enacted under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, is to collect these hazardous wastes from eleven power plants across the country and ship it down to Nevada and Utah. Terrorists would love to get their hands on some of this stuff. Yucca Mountain, Nevada was designated by the federal government to be the central, national depository for nuclear waste. Yucca Mountain is sacred ground to the Western Shoshone. It's been part of their religion for a thousand years. It's also a seismically active area. Water is a precious commodity in this arid land, and scientists warn that groundwater contamination could very easily occur.

A 4% levy on the 225 richest individuals would provide basic food, health care, and family planning assistance to the 225 million poorest people.

Dumping nuclear waste is a major concern of indigenous peoples. The sensible approach to this problem would be to stop generating this stuff. We don't need it. Decommission nuclear plants, and start developing solar and wind energy sources.

People feel like they're losing control over their lives, like we're caught in a rushing stream that's carrying us to a place we'd rather not go. This is generating massive and widespread feelings of alienation and varying degrees of negativity. Winona asked us to keep in mind, throughout the coming struggles and conflicts against corporate power, that instead of using a punitive justice system, we should consider the traditional Native American justice system, which is a restorative system. It is important to be clear about who the enemy is, who our allies are, and act accordingly. Even though the corporate capitalist system is destroying our Earth Mother, we must treat those responsible with justice to *restore* them, not to punish them. And this message is coming from a Native American who is very aware of how her people have been treated.

Winona told us about Lord Amherst, who deliberately distributed smallpox-infected trade blankets to the Indians, starting epidemics that decimated native populations. Yet there are streets, towns, and colleges named after this mass murderer.

We have two paths to choose from, says Winona. One is well-worn and smooth. The other is not well-worn and is green.

Winona founded the Indigenous Woman's Network, the Women of All Red Nations, and the Black Hills Alliance. She is currently the Director of the White Earth Recovery Project, a reservation-based land acquisition, environmental justice, and cultural organization. She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA.

She told us about the Project. Most of the best land belonging to a reservation in Northern Minnesota was lost over the years. How? Contrary to the traditional, communal way, when the reservation was started, much of the lands were granted to individual tribal members, not to the tribe as a whole. Then, over the years, one way or another, often through the use of booze and other unethical practices, tribal members signed deeds transferring the land into non-native ownership. The reservation started looking like a checkerboard. The Project seeks to recover lands that were stolen from the Ojibway. 1600 acres have been recovered so far, 50 acres in the third week of April alone. The reserve is using the recovered land for maple sugaring, organic gardening, wind power generation, and cultural site preservation.

No society has a monopoly on botching things up. The important thing is to have the humility and honesty to correct mistakes. Arrogance makes this difficult.

She talked to us about wild rice. In autumn, people go out on the lakes and rivers in canoes, bend the rice over the gunnels, and knock the grain loose, into the canoe, by beating the plants with a stick. That is the traditional way.

Then the University of Minnesota mapped the genome of wild rice for use in corporate, genetically modified food production in northern California rice paddies. The difference is that paddy cultivation uses pesticides and fertilizers, which aren't used traditionally. The paddies are burned annually, which puts a lot of silicates and chemical residues into the air and causes asthma.

Food corporations seek genetic uniformity in their products. One thing we should have learned from the Irish Potato Famine is that uniformity in our crops is a bad idea.

What kind of future do we want? How can we recover control from large agricultural corporations?

Winona asked us to keep Fair Trade principles in mind. Be careful what you buy. Buy wild rice from Manitoba, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ontario, which is a noticeably better-tasting and healthier product than paddy-grown "wild" rice from California.

Native Harvest is a sustainable natural foods enterprise whose goal is to support the many programs of White Earth Land Recovery Project while maintaining an avenue for local native harvesters and artisans to sell their products at a fair price. This encourages White Earth people to continue their historic practices of sustainable agriculture and traditional beadwork and quilting. Native Harvest sells maple products, natural lake wild rice, native roasted coffee, birch bark items and homemade quilts, and makes every effort to assure the tribal members who craft these items receive a fair price.

Why does she work so hard on the Restoration project? She said that the Ojibway were not the smartest people, definitely not the richest people, buy they are the people who are native to North Minnesota and lived in relative harmony with the land for thousands of years. When you see something that needs to be done, don't wait for somebody else to do it. Do it.

Somebody asked her, why, with all she was already doing, did she run for Vice President on the Green Party ticket in the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections? She said that she did it for 3 reasons:

1. Ralph Nader asked her to. He is one of her superheroes, who, over the years, has done so much to strengthen the average citizen against Big Business.
2. Sometimes a private citizen must get outside of her comfort zone a little

(continued page 10)

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Justice or Revenge?

The SLA and the War on Terrorism in the U.S.

Ron Jacobs

On October 31, 2001 Sara Jane Olson pled guilty to conspiring to firebomb or blow up some police cars back in 1975. Ms. Olson was supposed to have conspired with other members of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) and the New World Liberation Front (NWLF) back in the mid-1970s when the attempted bombings occurred. Although no cars were ever burned or blown up, Ms. Olson was arrested and convicted on these charges almost thirty years later, despite the lack of any substantial evidence that linked her physically to the acts. Furthermore, at her sentencing in January 2002 she was notified of new charges stemming from the murder of bank customer Myrna Opsahl that was allegedly committed by some members of the SLA during a holdup in Carmichael, CA. in 1975. Four other former SLA members were also charged with this murder. Their names are Bill and Emily Harris, James Kilgore, and Michael Bortin.

Although the murder made little political sense when it occurred, like many of the SLA's actions, one has to question the curious timing of the arrests. Since the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, the hysteria surrounding so-called terrorists has shaped virtually every act of law enforcement and the ruling elites in the United States. Indeed, part of the draconian "anti-terrorist" law passed by the US Congress (known by its acronym the USA-PATRIOT act) November 2001, created a new crime of domestic terrorism. Some of the provisions of this new law could re-define many direct action tactics (lockdowns, street blockades) as domestic terrorism. It also gives law enforcement agents the ability to charge anyone who provides assistance to a person charged with "domestic terrorism" with harboring a terrorist. Not only does this law create a new crime, it makes it possible for the state to retroactively prosecute suspected individuals for crimes that are decades old. In short, any crime that can be fit into this category has no statute of limitations.

Who Were the SLA?

The SLA's origins are vague, to say the least. Never more than a dozen individuals, it burst on the U.S. political scene in November 1973 when two of its members murdered the Oakland, California superintendent of public schools, Marcus Foster. Foster was tremendously popular in the primarily black and Latino community the Oakland school system served. His murder was mourned by thousands and disavowed by virtually every other radical organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. His moderately progressive ideas were opposed by many in Oakland's ruling elite -- a city that ran itself much like a racist city in America's old South -- and supported by many grassroots leftist groups such as the Oakland chapter of the Black Panther Party. The reasons given by the SLA for the assassination focused on Foster's plans to require all public school students to carry school identification cards and to plant uniformed police in certain schools in the district. The murder did serve to draw attention to the SLA -- from law enforcement, the media, and the Left. Almost immediately, the Black Panther Party began an investigation into the group's origins. Their investigation brought up several interesting leads that all too often brought the investigators back to the Criminal Conspiracy Division of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Criminal Investigation Division of the California Highway Patrol. Both of these units are well-known for their infiltration of radical groups and street gangs and their use of informers.

It is possible for the state to retroactively prosecute suspected individuals for "domestic terrorism". In short, any crime that can be fit into this category has no statute of limitations.

Although it is not my intention to delve into conspiracies here it is worth mentioning that one such informer who had been on the payroll of these and other law enforcement agencies at different times throughout his adult life was Donald DeFreeze -- renamed Cinque (after the leader of the Amistad slave ship rebellion) -- the leader of the SLA. Furthermore, DeFreeze had had documented contact with a Louis Tackwood, who was well known to the Los Angeles Black Panther chapter as an informer. After an unusual transfer from Soledad Prison to the Vacaville state prison and medical facility, DeFreeze first met the future SLA members in a state-sponsored program to promote literacy in California's prisons. His participation in the program was at the behest of prison officials. The program, known as Unisight, had been infiltrated by many white radicals who were interested in the revolutionary potential of prisoners, especially those of color. This interest had been on the rise since the late 1960s and had created revolutionaries like the murdered Black Panther George Jackson and the men of the failed September 1971 rebellion at Attica Prison in New York. The Black Panthers did not trust the Unisight program and considered it a way for prison officials to keep tabs on outside radicals who were interested in prison organizing. The (mostly white) radicals from the outside were from the Venceremos group, which had developed out of the Bay Area Revolutionary Unions, which in turn had derived from the 1969 disintegration of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Venceremos had minimal training in the use of arms and spent much of their time proselytizing the uninitiated and arguing with other ultra-left sects in the Bay Area over various and often arcane aspects of Marxist-Leninist theory. After a number of Unisight group meetings at Vacaville prison, the SLA and its program of revolutionary terror was developed. DeFreeze walked away from Vacaville prison near Sacramento, California in March 1973 (a feat that was not particularly easy and gives further credence to the theory that he was working for the police as a provocateur) and meet up with his fellow SLA members in Berkeley.

A series of spectacular acts followed, including the kidnapping of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst's daughter Patty and the subsequent ransom payment of millions of dollars of free food to the poor neighborhoods in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley, California. A few weeks after her kidnapping, Patty joined the group, which then went on a robbery spree through California. This series of "appropriations" resulted in large newspaper headlines, increased police harassment of street people in cities like Berkeley and Santa Cruz, California where large numbers of movement and counterculture adherents made their home, and a final showdown in Los Angeles on May 4, 1974 between six SLA members and hundreds of Los Angeles police. This showdown ended in the deaths of all six SLA members inside their safe house. It was followed by a months-long underground journey by Patty (now renamed Tania after Ché Guevara's companion) and other SLA members that traversed the continent and brought down the wrath of the FBI as it raided communes in the countryside known to be populated by new leftists and city dwellings that housed food coops, underground newspaper offices and other oppositional political organizations. It was during this period underground that the bank robbery in Carmichael, California took place and Myrna Opsahl was killed. Patty was captured in September 1975 along with another SLA member named Wendy Yoshimura.

Yoshimura's association with the group had begun after the debacle in Los Angeles and is notable mostly for two things: 1): her parents were interned in the World War Two internment camps set up by the United States government after the Japanese navy attack on Pearl Harbor and 2): it was through Yoshimura that the SLA connection to the radical sports critic and teacher Jack Scott was made. Scott was well known in US sports circles for his anti-capitalist critique of college and professional sports in US society and for his unconventional approach to sports education and coaching. Although never conclusively proven, Scott was believed to have provided shelter to the SLA members while underground and it was through Scott that basketball star Bill Walton (known for his antiwar/antiracist and countercultural views) was also implicated. Other SLA members, including Kathleen Soliah, neé Sara Olson were also underground. Very few leftist groups supported the SLA, even when they were under heavy attack by the police. Much of this hesitation stemmed from the heightened paranoia prevalent amongst leftist political and countercultural activists in 1974-76. That paranoia can be traced to the increased public awareness of the State's

(continued next page)

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repressive tactics that were coming to light in the wake of revelations surrounding the Watergate scandal. Some of the revelations eventually forced President Richard Nixon to resign under threat of impeachment and an almost certain conviction. In fact, the only widely published statements of support came from the Weather Underground and Yippie activists Stew Alpert and his partner Judith Clavier Alpert. Both of these sources decried the Left's attempts to distance themselves from the SLA. The statements urged other Movement people to "not do the work of the state" and to recognize the SLA as fellow fighters in the struggle, in spite of its terrorist tactics and curious origins. Ironically, the police and the system they protect did not acknowledge any difference between the SLA and other parts of the movement, preferring to place them all in the camp of the "terrorists." One support group did arise, calling itself the New World Liberation Front (NWLF). These individuals issued statements of support for the SLA and carried out actions to support them. It was the NWLF that claimed responsibility for other police car fire-bombings that occurred around the same time as the attempted ones that Olson is now serving time for.

The War on Terrorism and Political Repression

Ever since those planes hit the towers on September 11, 2001, the political climate amongst the United States' elites is one of consolidating power and abrogating liberties most US citizens take for granted, even though they don't use them. Given this, most citizens either support the curtailment of their liberties or, since they never use them, are unaware of how this curtailment affects these liberties' fragile existence. Of course, the rulers have taken full advantage of this confusion and the fear many Americans feel since the terrorist acts of 911. To this end, they have locked up over a thousand men of Middle Eastern, Pakistani, and Afghani origins, and increased their harassment of those who speak out against the so-called war on terror. This increased harassment includes the general isolation of all political prisoners in U.S. prisons, greater police violence and intimidation at demonstrations, and actual raids of organizations and individuals offices and dwellings in supposed searches for "terrorist" materials.

These moves are less about terror and more about control. Before the occurrences of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent combat overseas, the US corporate plan for economic hegemony was under attack. The protests and riots in the streets at every meeting of the world's capitalist leaders were but the most obvious aspect of this opposition. Just like the number of protestors in the streets at these meetings, overall opposition was growing. It was growing so quickly, in fact, that the governments and corporations who had much to lose from the growing popularity of the protestors' demands had to do something. The use of live ammunition by police in Gothenburg and the killing of a protestor in Genoa were indications of what lay ahead for protestors planning on attending the demonstrations against the IMF and World Bank in Washington, DC on September 29, 2001-meetings that were cancelled in the wake of September 11th. The bullets used by the police and fences constructed around these meetings are a metaphor for the legislation demanded by the corporations of the governments they control. It is necessary to silence the protestors by any means necessary. The terrorist attacks gave the authoritarians the opening they needed.

The Sara Olson trial was underway well before September 11th and Ms. Olson was planning on challenging the charges before a jury, figuring that she would be found innocent given the flimsy and circumstantial nature of the evidence. She abruptly changed strategy after the World Trade Center disaster, however, afraid of the climate of fear running rampant through the country and the prosecution's certain manipulation of that fear-something that could be easily done by reminding jurors that the SLA were "terrorists." Olson then pled guilty despite her denial of the charges. Her plea was accepted with reservation by the court and she was asked to reconfirm her guilt at sentencing, primarily because of statements she had made while free on bail and awaiting sentencing. These statements cast doubt on her guilt and focused on her inability to get a fair trial in post-911 America.

Given this, most citizens either support the curtailment of their liberties or, since they never use them, are unaware of how this curtailment affects these liberties' fragile existence.

Unfortunately for Olson, she was charged with murder soon after she was sentenced to ten years on conspiracy and possession of bombing materials charges. The murder charge was related to a robbery conducted by the SLA in Sacramento where an innocent bystander (Ms. Opsahl) was allegedly killed by a masked SLA member. Olson was one of four SLA members charged with murder. The trial has yet to begin. According to law enforcement sources quoted in various mainstream media, these charges were being prepared before Olson pled guilty to her other charges. Olson and many others believe that her inclusion in the indictment is an attempt to force her to turn state's evidence and tell the prosecution whatever she knows about the SLA, the Weather Underground and any other groups and individuals she came in contact with during her involvement in revolutionary politics.

This opinion is not without basis. There has been an ongoing campaign by the ultra-right in the United States to undo the legacy of the 1960s and 1970s. Some of this campaign's most dogged soldiers can be found in the right wing of the Republican Party and include at least two former New Leftists-David Horowitz and Peter Collier, both former staffers of the New Left Journal Ramparts and supporters of the ultraleftist elements of the New Left. Other participants in the drive to discredit the radical left of America's past include former FBI agents who were fired from the agency for committing illegal break-ins and other activities in their pursuit of leftist and antiwar/antiracist activists, and a variety of former prosecutors and just plain old demagogues who make their living off of attacking anyone to the left of George W. Bush and his cabal.

Now that the new crime of domestic terrorism has been created, (and, remember, there is no statute of limitations on acts that fall under this crime's definition) this campaign has the potential to dig up a lot of bones from the graveyard of the movements of the 1960s. Like the storm surrounding former radical Joschkua Fischer's activities in Frankfurt am Main, Germany in the same time period, the storm likely to be created by any pursuit of many former radicals in the United States is certain to cause trouble for those individuals and, more importantly, the activists of today. In addition, the protagonists in this campaign to eradicate the legacy of the New Left and imprison its former leaders appears to have the support of the current regime in Washington, something that makes the US scenario quite different than that in Germany, where Fischer and his fellows are the current rulers and his detractors are in the minority.

As for the US Left, both old and new, support for Olson and her cohorts has been minimal. Like much of the US populace, popular movements have a short memory. The history of the 1960s and 1970s is already ancient history to most grassroots activists today. Despite a rash of books and articles covering that period from a variety of political angles, there is still an overwhelming ignorance of the politics of that period, its principal players and its roster of martyrs and political prisoners. Add to this the general lack of support for the SLA in its heyday and one can see the possibility of these folks getting much harsher sentences than someone else convicted of the same crime under non-political circumstances, in part because there is no popular support for them. Despite the best efforts of many organizations and individuals who have spent much of the last decade organizing support for Mumia Abu Jamal, popular organizing around the fate of political prisoners is not very popular. The blame for this can be placed on the efforts of the left as well as the general rightward motion of the US establishment.

What Does the Future Hold?

To be brutally honest, it doesn't look good for the Ms. Olson and her fellow defendants. In all likelihood, they will all be convicted of the murder charges against them, despite the fact that only one person (who may or may not be one of those indicted) actually pulled the trigger that killed Opsahl. Under California law, however, anyone who was involved in the planning of a crime where a murder occurred is liable for the murder as well. It is expected that Patty Hearst will testify at the murder trial and, even though both Harrises have already done some prison time for their actions while with the SLA, their fate (and the fate of their co-defendants) is not a hopeful one. Indeed, the current climate in the United States is one that does not bode well for anyone who the state labels "terrorist," and the definition of that word is expanding every day to include more and more of the government's opponents, especially if they have Islamic, Middle Eastern, or left/anarchist connections.

While it would be easy to blame their lack of support from groups and individuals usually involved in political prisoner support entirely on the methods and rhetoric the SLA employed during its existence, to do so would be letting these organizations off too easily. The murder of Ms. Opsahl, an innocent bank customer who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, was, and remains, a reprehensible act for which there is no excuse. Despite this, and her family's understandable desire for justice, one has to wonder if the zealotry on the part of the state in its desire to pursue these prosecutions is, while not without precedent, a harbinger of the future at least as regards the repression of the state's enemies. If so, the US left, Black liberation, and anarchist movements would do well to come up with a strategy to combat such a future. The SLA case might be a good place to start.

In an essay I wrote when Ms. Olson was first arrested on the conspiracy to bomb police cars charges back in 1999, I stated (with slight alterations):

> *Like many other Americans in that time period, Ms. Soliah's (nee Olson) move to violence to make a political statement was the result of years of frustration with a government that was killing civilians in an overseas war, overthrowing popularly elected governments that did not want to be victims of its world order, locking up thousands of otherwise innocent citizens for smoking pot, and lying about its guilt in political matters while spying on its opponents of every political stripe.*
>
> (Sound familiar?)

The mass movements opposing these actions did not seem to be working and those of us who hadn't given up and gone off to make money or get so fucked up we didn't care were getting more radical and more desperate. Now they are being brought up on charges decades old.

Meanwhile, those men who were running this country then have been resuscitated as national heroes and statesmen. Who can forget the nauseating paeans to the mass-murderer and wannabe dictator Richard Nixon during ceremonies marking his death? How often is the modern television news watcher subjected to the imperial wisdom of his fellow Christmas bomber and friend of fascists around the world, Henry Kissinger? It is these men and their ilk, including latter day presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, who should be facing justice, not just Ms. Soliah and her fellow former radicals. ◆

Book Review

The Best Democracy Money Can Buy

Nancy West

The Best Democracy Money Can Buy - A small book that packs a powerful punch. This book offers up the answers to our many questions regarding what is really going on in our world today.

Greg Palast is an investigative journalist extraordinaire. An expert on the control of corporate power, he for many years worked with labor unions and consumer groups in the USA, Europe and South America and five years ago turned his finely honed investigative skills to the profession of journalism. He lives in London and works for the *Guardian* of London and *Observer* newspapers. His articles are often reprinted at CommonDreams.org and he is frequent guest of Amy Goodman on Democracy Now!

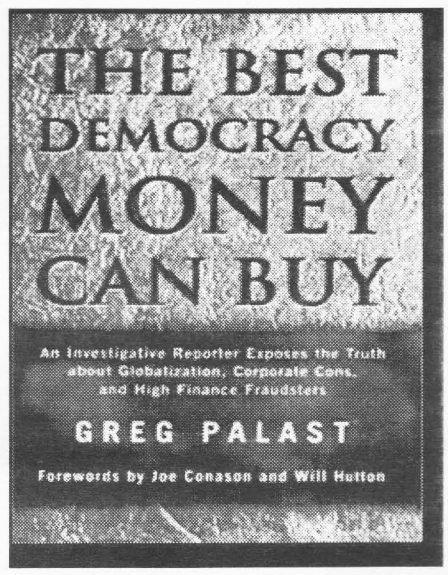
Greg's investigations have taken him to places as near as Washington and Florida and as far away as Asia. Do you still wonder what really happened in the 2000 presidential race? The first chapter of his book explains how the Governor of Florida and his Secretary of State set the stage for Florida to be the deciding vote in the 2000 presidential election. In the year before the election, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Secretary of State Katherine Harris ordered that felons be purged from the voter registration database. Not only that, they also inserted a "margin of error" into the name matching process. In other words, if Tom Johnson was a felon and there was a Tom Johnston registered, that was a close enough match to have the name deleted. When Tom Johnston discovered that he had been "mistakenly" removed from the voter registration, his only recourse was to start an appeal process to have his rights returned. But wait, he never lost his rights. That did not matter and unfortunately, for Mr. Johnston and many, many others as well as the American people, this "appeal" would not be acted on until after the election was decided. As a result of this order from two of Florida's highest elected officials, 57,500 people, mainly democratic voting Blacks and Hispanics, were unjustly removed from Florida's voter rolls.

Details of this IMF "set-up" as well as many other insights into the workings of globalization and corporatization are offered in a no-holds-barred delivery.

What the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are doing to lesser-developed nations in the name of democracy and freedom is an outrage. Greg tells in his book how the riots in Ecuador's capital in 2001 were actually instigated by a directive in a World Bank confidential plan and that the Bank and IMF even predicted that public unrest would result. Details of this IMF "set-up" as well as many other insights into the workings of globalization and corporatization are offered in a no-holds-barred delivery.

Palast does not mince words when it comes to telling it like it is. No one is safe from exposure if they are involved in corporate and political corruption and Greg is on their trail. In the U.S. these perpetrators of evil may be safe from exposure because of the incestuous relationship between politicos, corporate bad guys and the mainstream media—hence the name "corporate press" but they are not safe from Greg's track 'em down and route 'em out style of investigative ournalism.

The business shenanigans of a number of famous and infamous people come under the scrutiny of this hard-hitting investigator. The lucky ones who were selected to be highlighted in this book include "Dr." Reverend Pat Robertson, Sam Walton, The Bush family and Tony Blair.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GREG PALAST
Forewords by Joe Conason and Will Hutton

This book is an eye-opener and a must read for anyone who wants to know more about what in the world is really going on. Don't depend on CNN and Fox for your news, read this book, stay away from the mainstream press (read commondreams.org instead) and **go see Greg Palast in Seattle at the Town Hall on Saturday, June 22nd at 7:30. For more information on Greg visit his webpage at www.gregpalast.com**

Nancy West is a member of Know More, a South Sound organization that promotes progressive voices. ◆

Temporary America: It isn't working

Zach Zinn

My wife and I moved here about 10 months ago from Albuquerque, New Mexico; we left behind horrendous, soul draining corporate "customer service" jobs. These were only jobs available to us if we wanted to earn a living wage in Albuquerque. Naturally, I was delighted when I got a job with the State Of Washington only a month after being here, one catch: I'm a "temp". The quotation marks are appropriate because I do the exact same job as the official State employees, but I get paid about half the wage they do, and I earn no benefits whatsoever. This is also the process many State employees must go through to become permanent. You might be saying, "what's wrong with that, as long as everyone has to go through that, well then it must be fair". If only it were so simple.

The most glaring inequity upon first being a part of this system is that the period of time spent as a temp is indefinite; I am not a "state temp", which is a worker actually hired by the state; we are technically hired by a private company contracted by the state in order to get around using state temps, who are given some rights, benefits, and also have some provisions as to how much time may pass before the state "officially " hires them. Some have waited 3 months for a permanent job, some have waited years. At this point, it appears the state in general is attempting to slowly dwindle it's pool of official employees, and replace them with temps. The hiring freeze and budgetary scare tactics are aiding in this.

Case and point, shortly before the hiring freeze there were to be two permanent positions opening due to vacancies, I do not know where the money used to pay these vacant positions went, as I understand it, it was already allocated for this purpose. However...the positions were simply silently replaced by more temps, while the department (and I'm sure this is not an isolated incident) invested a whopping amount of money in it's own infrastructure, and in frivolous purchases of unneeded new equipment. All this done, right in front of our faces, while we are being told that there just isn't any money to hire us right now. They also continued to hire new middle management, I guess bureaucrats are exempt from the hiring freeze.

The ruling class is now so brazen they don't even feel a need to pretend that the lives of workers are worth anything.

The point of my sob story? This is happening everywhere, it's good for business, good for profits, good for a system which seems to have discarded even the pretensions of valuing the dignity and security of workers. The Washington State Labor Council notes that the State itself has developed a 'disturbing dependence" on temporary and contingent workers.

In his book *Why You Should Be A Socialist* Alan Maas notes that almost half the homes below the official poverty line in the US in the 1990's (which is an incredibly conservative standard as it is) are households with one full time worker. Similarly, a 1998 study found that about one third of households receiving food from a food bank also had someone working full time. He also mentions that it would be foolhardy to doubt where this money is going: from 1991 to 1997 worker's pay fell to the lowest share of national income since 1968, while the share going to profits rose to the highest level since that year. That's from *Business Week* by the way, hardly a left-biased source. It is probably safe to assume many of the workers mentioned previously are "temps" consigned to the ranks of the growing class of "working poor".

In terms of the work environment the "temp system" works great, people are in constant fear of losing their jobs, so they are easy to overwork. At my job as a temp you're not even recognized as a state worker, so forget any kind of protocol for discipline, you're just out the door. In *Propaganda And The Public Mind* Noam Chomsky notes that Alan Greenspan himself considers this a positive economic trend; this is one of the things the "boom" of the 1990's was based on, worker insecurity. The ruling class is now so brazen they don't even feel a need to pretend that the lives of workers -- who create the immense wealth which they steal for themselves -- are worth anything. Is this a democratic system in any real fashion? It doesn't appear so to me.

As far as Washington itself is concerned, the new collective bargaining bill, much lauded by the union, has had it's huevos whacked clean off, and if the anti-labor contingent of the business community has it's way, even the positive part of the bill, -- the actual bargaining rights -- will be gutted. SHB 1268 even has a 'no striking permitted' clause. What the hell kind of a pro labor bill is that? It also allows for more contracting out of state services; you guessed it....temps.

Anyway, perhaps soon none of this will matter to me, as I'm sure I will be fired if any number of people working above me happen upon this article. Certainly the time to organize and build up the bruised labor movement is now, but how? The apathy at my workplace is matched only by the despair, and the one union rep I've spoken to didn't seem very concerned, after all, we're not "real" state employees. How do you organize a workforce which has been intentionally fragmented and turned against the other employees? Your guess is as good as mine. ◆

The Un-sanity Of Unemployment

Daniel Diablo

Poor folks is in the news again, thanks to a grudging media that must report on statistics that mean something to people who watch television. Unemployment in Washington state is over 7%, and it's payback time for us bottom 90%; or, as I like to call it, "The New World Order Strikes Back".

I'm grieved to report that this time yours truly got caught in the crosshairs. From a personal perspective, it's a tragic story (although not without its comic undertone), and as much as I'd like to convince you that I was the victim of circumstances that point to some nefarious ramifications, I can't make a case for my supposed "innocence" without (a) boring you to death, or (b) revealing my ID, so I'll just say this: it wasn't pretty and it severely fucked with my head.

How severely, you ask? By the time you read this, I will be going on six months without steady work. Unemployment is new to me, at least as a so-called "adult." I have worked uninterruptedly, except maybe for a couple of months in the late '80's, ever since I graduated from high school.

Getting canned *wasn't* all bad, though; my former employer was unionized, and I was able to parlay my forced resignation into a legally questionable approval for weekly unemployment benefits. The sordid political intrigue behind my separation was difficult for me to accept, however, and being exiled from a job you held for over three years is inherently humiliating.

However, after raging impotently and playing the victim for a few months, I wanted to genuinely deal with what I call the "un-sanity" of unemployment, so here I am. This essay is my perspective from my own knowledge, experience and observations of others at the Work Source Affiliate whose job search resources I used regularly; if your experience is different, please be advised that I would love to read your story here someday. **What is "un-sanity"?**

Some of the characteristics of unsanity are mundane, but worth mentioning for contextual reasons. First is increased stress, which is a variable proportional to your susceptability to capitalist propaganda (e.g. how much you've bought the company line about "at will" employment, the so-called "free market" and its accompanying social Darwinist justification for wage slavery, etc.)

Other factors influencing stress include age, gender, educational level, how many dependents you have, and what your emotional support network is like (i.e. your *real* friends who still call you occasionally) and, perhaps most importantly, your personal sense of mastery at the time of your job separation (more on this later). Stress has very real physiological and psychological effects; it lowers the competence of your immune system and opens you up to depression, which, of course, you won't be able to treat since you're probably broke (I might mention here that untreated depression is the #1 cause of suicide). On the neuroendocrinal level, our "inner judges," which regulate the neurotransmitters that steer us toward boldness or breakdown, shift into imbalance when shocked out of stasis by crisis.

This is your brain on unemployment. Un-sane. Not *insane* because it is only the *conditional* nature of unemployment that messes with your quality of life; in short, it puts the onus of blame on *you* (conversely, if you were judged insane, you'd be a ward of the State; either in prison, on SSI, or some form of Social Security). And to keep the checks coming in, be forewarned: you've got to be savvy in every word and deed that you say or write to the State. The commissars at Employment Securities will give you every opportunity to screw up and to throw you off, and it doesn't take much if you're working poor like me.

Unemployment is new to me, at least as a so-called "adult." I have worked uninterruptedly, except maybe for a couple of months in the late '80's, ever since I graduated from high school.

Kafkaesque "dirty tricks"

This leads to the second characteristic of "unsanity;" paperwork and documentation. You've got to be able to prove you're looking for work, file a claim every week, and know what the right answers are if ever questioned (in my case, due to the unusual nature of my forced resignation, I was questioned on *four* different occasions, and if I screwed up once, I would've been denied benefits; in the end, I was only approved after my former employer committed fraud by reporting I was discharged several weeks before my actual separation).

Some of the arcane nature of this questioning can get you into Catch 22 scenarios. For example, if you happened to be self-employed to some degree (which presumably is good because you're *working*), you'll have to fill out at least two four-page questionaires, and they might even ask you to fill out the same one *twice* two months apart to see if they can catch you in a fib, as they did with me. Remember, you're already stressed so dealing with this shit ain't helping matters, and if you complain, they'll just tell you, like any faithful commissar, that "Look, I don't make the rules; you just have to do it to get benefits."

And don't forget: your employment search journal, which you have to faithfully record to keep the checks coming in, can be called in for random checking at any time. This fiat, in my opinion, is to prevent you from ever getting too comfortable about finally having some *real* slack time to play with.

Even with all this State-sponsored terrorism, Washington is a relatively easy welfare state; if I were in Alabama or Mississippi, forget about it. You wouldn't even be reading this because I'd probably be homeless by now. The bottom line of unsanity is this oxymoronic postulate: although the State fundamentally distrusts you to look for a job, they desperately desire and demand that you find work (this is the comic element I alluded to earlier). Trust me, it helps to laugh.

AS I watch the rising unemployment numbers...
...my heart goes out to each & every one of
Who has lost their job...
...And don't have the Supreme Court to get it back for them

Fun with unemployment

A few months ago, I caught an NPR byline recorded by an ex-Enron employee. This woman compared unemployment to a "sabbatical;" a few months to a year to catch up with friends and re-evaluate yourself, recharge your resume, blah, blah, blah; you get the idea.

Obviously, having been employed in the white collar world, this woman's sense of personal mastery was much higher than mine, but she was blissfully ignoring the fact that the company she worked for was ripping off thousands of people, screwing around with power availability for California residents, and involved in influence peddling with top levels of the Bush administration (Vice-President Cheney and Halliburton, et. al.) Thus, she could blithely joke about having coffee at Starbuck's and watching all the poor drones have to shuffle off to their dull jobs, confident in the fact that *she* would find a suitable job eventually (and, as much as I hate to admit it, she probably *will*, owing to this moral and ethical quietism rooted in neuroendocrinal advantage).

But you're better than that, right? *You* know the score, so you don't have the psychological advantage the N(ron)PR woman has. How do *you* manage the stultifying, (literally) brain-deadening bullshit that losing your job engenders?

Here are some closing tips; "Chicken soup for the scut job unemployed's soul," if you will, to turn the tide. They can make your 'sabbatical' bearable, and maybe even turn it into a blessing in disguise:

Use the library: Hey, it's free, and a world of entertainment awaits you. Do a subject search and type in "feature films;" there are over 3,000 titles, and many from the 1930's deal realistically with social issues around unemployment. Just to get you started, here are two silent films you might enjoy: *The Crowd* and *Sparrows*.

Get political: Remember all those times you've wanted to be more active but couldn't swing it because you "didn't have the time"? Well, now you do. Write letters to your representatives (Brian Baird, Patty Murray, or Maria Cantwell) at the library computer, or use the ones at the Worksource Affiliate when the commissars are not looking. Or write to *The Olympian* or other publications (God knows the unemployed are underrepresented). Or join a local organization whose views you support and speak your truth; there are quite a few in this area that would love to meet you and pass on activism skills you may need to get going.

Exercise: Yeah, I know; this is very much fun, but it will improve your mood if you're mildly depressed. If you're *really* depressed, however, get down to DSHS and demand treatment. Andrew Solomon's book, *An Atlas of Depression*, is a worthwhile read if you need more info to get moving.

Avoid isolation: I'll admit it, this is the toughest one to crack, and it's really at the heart of all the other suggestions. You don't want to be a drag on your friends, but then again, you've got to open up to feel human and get your ass out of bed. Ultimately, the healthiest activities you can be involved in pertain to displaying your sense of mastery at whatever it is you were put on the planet to do, and hopefully, having other folks applaud you for your efforts. Some way, somehow, you *must* make this your mission.

This article will self-destruct in five seconds.....

Author's note: Thanks to Howard Bloom's Global Brain *for the neuroendocrinal info (pp. 143-50).* ◆

(Winona, continued)

assault by a disgruntled downtown business. (It is interesting that the police refused to file a report on it initially, but the prosecutor is apparently pursuing a case against the owner of McCoy's Tavern for the assault.)

What you can do

Please work to insure the council understands that Olympia is not a city that accepts the criminalization of the homeless. They need to hear from you. You can help in the following ways.

--Write letters to the council and tell them a Car Camping ban of any type will not be tolerated in Olympia.

--Write letters to the editor of the *Olympian* and share your views about this action the council seems determined to follow through with in a vacuum of public support.

--Make a donation to a special fund being collected to place an ad in *Olympian* directed at the Council expressing our disappointment.

--Join a signature gathering campaign against the Car Camping ban.

--Thank your downtown businesses for not supporting the ordinances

--Come to the public hearing that the council will have to schedule if they decide to move forward further with the No Car Camping ordinance. It could be as early as the middle of June -- so stay tuned!

For information on making a donation or other ways you can help, email operations@coldandhungry.org ◆

Gay Activist Marc Adams to Visit Olympia

Sunday, June 9th

PFLAG Olympia (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in conjunction with Heartstrong, Inc. is pleased to announce that they are sponsoring an exciting and educational afternoon with internationally recognized Gay rights activist and award winning author, Marc Adams.

Heartstrong, Inc. is the most extensive grassroots outreach effort in the history of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) movement. Since January, 1998, the HeartStrong Outreach Team has traversed the United States and parts of Canada by car, raising public awareness to the plight of GLBT students at religious schools and reaching out to those who need their encouragement and understanding. The Team recently marked their 188,000th mile driven in their outreach effort.

Since January, 1998, HeartStrong, Inc., has assisted over 800 students directly and affected hundreds more via their outreach efforts on the Internet, in public meetings and other programs. Tens of thousands have attended their lectures and workshops. HeartStrong, Inc., is a nonsectarian organization and outreach efforts extend to current and former students of every religious educational institution. Every religious school, college or university that does not allow GLBT students to fully express themselves emotionally, spiritually, romantically and socially is targeted for outreach.

"We have not found one religious school that allows GLBT students to fully be themselves," Adams says. "Our efforts are not to change the schools or their leaders. We are here to reach out to the students and provide the information they need to live. One hundred eighty-eight thousand miles is a lot of driving and outreach work but we are just beginning." www.heartstrong.org & www.windowbooks.com

All of Marc Adams' books and resources will be available at this event. They will be in Olympia, WA on Sunday June 9, 2002. The meeting starts at 2pm and the program by HeartStrong begins at 3:30pm. Donations are appreciated.

PFLAG Olympia meets at 2:00 PM on the 2nd Sunday of each month at The Gathering Place room of First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE at Boundary Street in Olympia. It is handicap-accessible. Call (360) 866-0511 or info@pflag-olympia.org. Website: http://pflag-olympia.org/

PGLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Mission: To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten and ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Founded in 1973, PFLAG is one of the nation's oldest GLBT civil rights organizations, and promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Serving more than 80,000 members and supporters, PFLAG has 486 chapters and affiliates located in communities across the U.S.

PFLAG Selects New Executive Director

The national office of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) announced the selection of David Tseng, former White House senior policy advisor and staff director for the National Economic Council, as the organization's new executive director.

A nationally recognized pension and health care expert, Tseng also served as chief assistant treasurer for the City and County of San Francisco, a benefits policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Labor and an attorney in private practice in Los Angeles. Tseng is the first gay man and first person of color to serve as the organization's executive director. Tseng, 43, earned his undergraduate degree with honors in English Literature from Columbia University and received his juris doctor degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. He and his partner of seven years, John Burnim, make their home in Washington, D.C. ◆

(Winona, continued)

and do what's right.

3. She needed to get out and organize for what's right – that's the only reason why every mid-size town in the country doesn't have a nuclear power plant.

She talked about militarization. The military budget is already 40% of our budget. In light of all the real needs in Turtle Island (the Native American term for North America) that are going unmet, this is an obscenity.

Bush, Cheney, and friends are pushing through several schemes to further enrich the owning class, under cover of defense against terrorism. She said that the USA Patriot Act is "COINTELPRO updated". Back in the late 60's and early 70's, the FBI and other agencies infiltrated and weakened many progressive organizations, and destroyed some outright, under the Counter Intelligence Program. Use of *agents provocateurs* was one of many shady tactics that were used.

Winona said "I believe in a Zero Tolerance Policy toward Terrorism". She asked why we are funding terrorists like Ariel Sharon or the government of Colombia, with its right-wing para-military allies. The U.S. government uses our tax money to provide guns to countries with gross human rights violations. The School of the Americas (recently renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation ("WHISC")) has trained some of the most heinous criminals over the years, again at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Is change possible? When will it come? "Maybe when the white man realizes that chemicals in his environment are making his testes shrink!" Whatever it takes, change will only occur when people organize for change. The fight for a living wage should be at the core of our struggles, right at the top of the list.

The process of recovering democracy will take a while. It won't be easy. It will take determination, but it's something that must be done.

Somebody asked Winona if she thought that the image of the "ecological Indian" helped or hurt the native struggle. She said that one bad thing about that stereotype is that it puts non-Natives, like the federal government, into the position of determining what is "traditional" and what isn't.

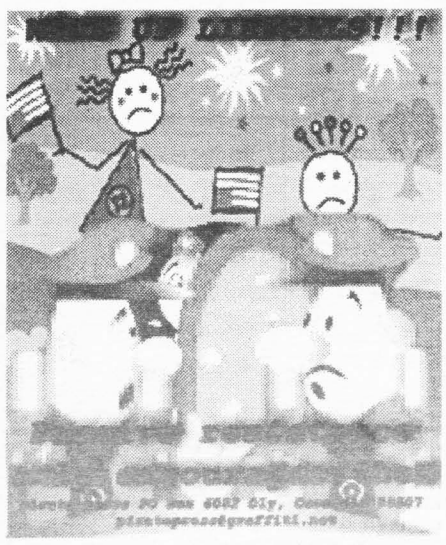
LaDuke has written two books: *All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life* (South End Press, 1999), and a novel, *The Last Standing Woman* (Voyageur Press, 1997). Both books deal with the issues of indigenous rights, environmental justice, and her experiences in America. She currently lives with her family on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. For more information on the White Earth Land Recovery Project, see: www.welrp.org. For more on the Seventh Generation Fund, see: www.7genfund.org.

Downstairs, at the reception after her talk, as Winona re-connected with her youngest son with a reassuring breast-feeding, we talked about her coming to Olympia for a couple of presentations. She said that she would love to, but probably not before autumn. ◆

(ReSource, continued)

waste that gets needlessly sent to landfills every year.

But perhaps the most exciting thing about Sound Builders' ReSource is its connection with South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity. All of the business' profits go directly to supporting Habitat, it is essentially a fundraising project of Habitat. South Puget Sound Habitat is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, and is an organization which works in partnership with low-income families to build homes which the families are then able to purchase at no profit with a no-interest loan. Habitat cites as their core objective: "to eliminate substandard housing everywhere on earth, making decent, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action." What's unique about Habitat's program is that it isn't just a social service agency that gives people



housing. Habitat acts as a general contractor in the building projects, coordinating labor and materials. It actually involves the families in the hands-on building of their homes, giving them the chance to develop new skill!

Since it began in 1988, South Puget Sound Habitat has built 19 homes with area families. Their goal is to develop the resources to build five homes per year. All of their work is done by volunteers, and they welcome people of all skill levels. Materials and funding are all donated. Their partnership with Sound Builders' ReSource is an opportunity to have a consistent funding source, which would help make the five homes a year goal a reality.

In order to thrive, SBR needs the community's support in a variety of ways. They are always accepting donations of saleable building materials, wether you have a few small items or a large teardown job. They are happy to accept financial donations, which are tax-deductible. Volunteers are needed, to help staff the store, do pickups and deliveries, and assist on salvage jobs. SBR would also like input as to what direction folks would like to see the store take. Staff member Michelle Pope says she sees the store as a resource for the community, and would like its inventory and services to be shaped by the community's needs.

If you have ideas, materials, or energy to offer, or would simply like to come down and check out the store, visit SBR at 210 Thurston Ave. Or call them for more info at 753-1575. ◆

Church Needs to Look Deeper at Sex Scandal

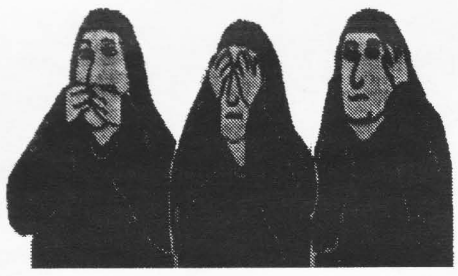
Andy Ornberg

The current scandal being reported in the media surrounding the victimization of boys and young men by Roman Catholic priests discourages me greatly. As a man who truly loves the church, and has worked in a variety of roles within it's ranks, I am very saddened by the breaking of trust that has been committed by priests who have victimized others, and a hierarchy that has sought until now to cover up rather than make right. My continuing concern is that, even in the face of tough talk on the subject resently at the Vatican by the pope and U.S. cardinals, the root of the problem won't be dealt with, because the church is still blindly invested in maintaining the status quo regarding it's basic orientation to sexual issues.

This is because of the church hierarchy's vigilant denial that there is anything wrong with it's theology and basic understanding of sex and sexuality. The church has been pronouncing through this current crisis that better formation for priests in seminaries and a no tolerance policy will solve the problem. I must insist it won't. I make this point, because the church still wants to stand by a set of beliefs around sexuality that are not structured to gain insight and a depth of understanding. Rather, the churches understanding of human sexuality is in large part designed to protect it's policy of a celibate male clergy, and this will be the reason that it will refuse to look at the roots of the current problem.

In considering this ideology, it is important to first recognize a fact that even most Catholics don't even realize. That is, the Roman Catholic church's policy of having only celibate male priests is relatively new. In the third century the churches concern was to prohibit bishops to only one wife! A clear directive for celibacy did not come about until around the year 1000, and was not rigorously enforced for the first time until the end of the 11th century when Pope Gregory VII told the laity to stop going to Masses celebrated by married priests. And this was by no means the last word on the matter, as, for example, when in the 15th century at two church councils, proposals were made to reintroduce the married priesthood. My own experience shows how the problems of this policy have continued right up to modern times. In the parish I grew up in, the pastor had a live in house keeper which the parish members realized did more than just vacuum the rugs. I was reminded of this fact when at a meeting I attended a couple years ago for religious education program leaders, a Monsignor giving a talk laughingly referred to the 1950s and 60s when many parish priests had similar arrangements.

Let us be clear that the reason the church began to roll back the institution of married priests was not due to deep theological reflection, but rather because priest's children in the middle ages were being left inheritances that would otherwise have stayed in the church coffers. Some, trying to justify the churches policies on celibacy after the fact, point to biblical advice from St. Paul, early in his ministry, that the best course of action for the Christian was to remain celibate. However, the trouble with taking his remarks here out of context is the fact that Paul believed the second coming of Christ was going to happen at any moment. Therefore, what would the point be in starting a family and working for the sake of posterity? Better to simply prepare yourself to meet Jesus who was sure to be riding into town at any moment. When seen in this light, it becomes obvious that his remarks were not intended to slight the married life, but rather were to make the point that we needed to prepare ourselves for Jesus coming. The church also speaks as if not allowing woman to take holy orders has always been the case, when it is certain that women where deacons in the early church, and there is a growing body of evidence that they were also priests and even bishops (read Karen Armstrong's *When Women Were Priests*).



This willingness to stubbornly insist on a celibate male clergy indicates how deeply sexual dysfunction is rooted in the hierarchy of the Roman church.

The churches dysfunctional defense of a celibate male clergy can also be witnessed within the church's own internal contradictions regarding what it is telling people verses the reality of this policy. The Catholic church gives much lip service within its own ranks, and even to other Christian religions, about the paramount importance of bringing the Mass and the Eucharist to the people. The church is also going through a time when the numbers of priests are shrinking to the point where now parishes are being closed, and many that are remaining open don't have a resident priest to perform Sunday services. This priest shortage could be almost instantly solved by ordaining married men and women. So, out of the other side of it's mouth, what the church is saying in effect is that maintaining a celibate male clergy is more important than bringing to the people Mass, the Eucharist and all the other ministries the clergy provides.

This willingness to stubbornly insist on a celibate male clergy, and even to attempt to raise these standards to the level of "infallible," when these policies obviously have no solid basis in church history or theology, indicates how deeply sexual dysfunction is rooted in the hierarchy of the Roman church. Anyone who grew up as I did in the church, even in the midst of the fresh air of the Vatican II renewal, knows how guilt ridden all church members were made to feel about their sexuality. A policy of guilt that stemmed from a deep fear of the creative and explosive power of human sexual vitality. This reality must be set against the back drop of the fact that the church does much good work in the world. The Catholic church is the largest non-governmental provider of social services on the planet. The church has taken an unequivocal position across the globe to stand with the poor and dispossessed, and minister to the spiritual needs of all whose road leads them to the churches door. It is the churches obligation to itself and to the world to look deeply at the roots of it's practices and understanding of sexuality, and I would insist that until it does, problems with sexual issues among the clergy will continue. This honest self assessment and reform needs to be done in such a way that creates a situation where pilgrims finding themselves at the churches door will be met by non-predatory clergy members -- men and women, married and celibate -- who are living examples of health and vitality. ◆

(Annoucements, continued)

The Olympia Sustainability Summit (TOSS)

Sylvester Park, downtown Olympia

Saturday, June 8th

11 am - 6 pm

Description: TOSS is a FREE all day festival celebrating the diverse activities and organizations in and around Olympia that contribute to ecologically sustainable development alternatives in our community. Come and learn about local food producers, native plant gardening, eco-building, micro-financing and much more! Speakers, children?s activities and live music will entertain and educate you throughout the day. See you there!

A project of TESC graduate students taking the ?Environment and Development? elective, spring 2002. Contact krystal at klynn@nocharge.zzn.com for more info.

Doing Time, Doing Vipassana

A Documentary Film

Sunday, June 9th, 2-4 p.m. at the Capitol Theater, 206 5th Ave. SE.

Doing Time, Doing Vipassana is an award-winning documentary that takes viewers into India's largest prison- known as one of the toughest in the world- and shows the dramatic change brought about by the introduction of vipassana meditation. This extremely moving film is a poignant reflection on the relationships between inner peace and social justice. For more information, please contact Van Shafer at 360-352-4938 or goenkainolympia@hotmail.com

SOUTH SOUND
GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

209 East 4th Ave., Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 786-6349
speech@olywa.net www.olywa.net/speech

Works In Progress is a 12-year old alternative newspaper in Olympia and Thurston County. WIP challenges the corporate media by remaining committed to confronting oppression and encouraging action around issues of economic, social, and environmental justice.

WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are a dozen or so volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly $500^{00} to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands.

see page 2

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.
WORKS IN PROGRESS
FREE
JUNE 2002

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Oly City Council Pursues No Car Camping Law & Recycled Building Materials Store
- 5 -
Winona LaDuke Speaks
6-7
Justice or Revenge? The SLA & Terrorism
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Book Review The Best Democracy Money Can Buy
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The Un-Sanity Of Unemployment
- 11 -
Church Needs To Look Deeper Into Sex Scandal

DONALD A. MERCAN (sung to the tune of "Eleanor Rigby")

by Greg Hohnholt (with apologies to Paul McCartney)

KAOS has a tape of this song, so call 'em up and request it if you'd like to hear it.

Ah, look at all the pissed off people!
Ah, look at all the pissed off people!

Donald A. Mercan,
Cuts off a pick-up on I-5 on his way to work,
He's such a jerk,
Look at him twitching,
Scowling and snarling and seething about to erupt,
His country's corrupt.

All the pissed off people,
Consigned to isolation,
All the pissed off people,
Scared and disillusioned.

Betsy Careermom,
Drops off her kiddies and lights up a ciggie and sucks,
She's going nuts,
Look at her driving,
Her flag on her S-U-V flapping and flicking so fine,
She's politically blind.

All the pissed off people,
Consigned to isolation,
All the pissed off people,
Scared and disillusioned.

Ah, look at all the pissed off people!
Ah, look at all the pissed off people!

President George Bush,
Throwing our taxes at war toys and corporations,
Stole his election,
Morally bankrupt,
Swiping his votes from his bro while he waits to get paid,
We allowed this charade.

All the pissed off people,
Consigned to isolation,
All the pissed off people,
Scared and disillusioned.

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507